

May 2009

Dear MS Language Arts/ English I Parents,

This past year, TKA has had a wonderful year of reading. Students were busy reading novels in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. Here at The King's Academy, we love reading and wish to instill that same love in all our students.

To get an early start, we are sending home our summer reading list today. Each student is to begin by reading the required novel for his or her grade level. A second novel is to be selected by your child from the list provided. Attached is a journal writing assignment that is to be completed during or immediately upon completion of each novel. Rising English I students have two novels pre-selected for them.

We ask students to use the honor system when completing these assignments and trust that the work turned in is their own, not the work of parents or friends. We also ask students to choose novels that they have not previously read. We acknowledge that, of all books, the Bible is the most important; it is an integral part of reading at TKA. In addition, we want our students to have broad experiences with works of literature dealing with a variety of themes. The attached list of summer reading books reflects this variety.

Middle school is a critical time in your child's educational career. It is the time that reading skills need to be kept sharp and fine-tuned. Of all skills students master, reading is the one that spills over into every discipline and affects success in every subject matter on every level. The goal for our students at TKA is that they will be life-long readers. The first step to a lifetime of independent learning is a proficiency in reading and, ultimately, a love of the pursuit of knowledge. Summer reading will help our students achieve these goals.

Summer Reading List For Rising Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and English I Students

Rising 6th Graders: First Novel-Required Reading:

Summer of the Monkeys...Rawls

Second Novel- Select one of the following:

My Side of the Mountain...George

Maniac Magee...Spinelli

Hitty: Her First Hundred Years...Lathrop

Rising 7th Graders: First Novel-Required Reading:

Where the Red Fern Grows...Rawls

Rising 8th Graders: First Novel-Required Reading:

The Red Badge of Courage...Crane

Second Novel for 7th/8th Graders-Select one of the following:

Bridge to Terabithia...Paterson

The Incredible Journey...Burnford

The Yearling...Rawlings

Cheaper by the Dozen...Gilbreth

Anne of Green Gables...Montgomery

Little Women...Alcott

Onion John...Krumgold

Kira-Kira...Kadohata

The Whipping Boy...Fleischman

Johnny Tremain...Forbes

Summer of the Swans...Byars

(Continued on back)

Rising English I Students: First Novel-Required Reading:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer...Mark Twain

Second Novel-Required Reading:

The Old Man and the Sea...Ernest Hemingway

Summer Reading Journal Writing Assignment

For 6th, 7th, 8th, and English I Students:

In a journal form, students are to write their thoughts for each novel. These assignments, one for each of the required two books, will be due on the first day of classes in August. Eight points will be taken off the student's grade for every day the assignment is late. Each assignment will be counted as a quiz grade. The teacher will grade for handwriting and correct spelling and grammar but will put more emphasis on the content and completeness of the answers. What a simple way to start the school year off on the right foot!

Journal Writing Requirements:

1. Identify the book's title, author's name, copyright date and number of pages. Be sure to underline or italicize all words in the title.
2. Give a brief summary of the plot.
3. Explain the significance of the title. Authors do not choose a title randomly. The title may be symbolic or it may be representative of the meaning or intent. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
4. Identify what caused a change in the main character and explain how he/she changed.
5. Did you enjoy the ending of the book? Why or why not?
6. Quote a verse from the Bible that you feel is appropriate to the novel. This could be a verse that you could use to counsel one of the characters in the novel. Explain why you chose this specific verse.

Have a blessed summer,
TKA English Dept.